



**ORDER SUSPENDING ENFORCEMENT OF
PROHIBITION ON REMOTE ORDER ENTRY FROM UNPERMITTED SITE**

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Governor Henry McMaster issued Executive Order No. 2020-08 declaring a public health emergency due to the evolving nature and scope of the public health threat or other risks posed by COVID-19 and the actual and anticipated impacts associated with the same;

WHEREAS, S.C. Code Ann. § 40-43-10 provides that the purpose of the South Carolina Board of Pharmacy (“Board”) is to “promote, preserve, and protect the public health, safety, and welfare by and through the effective control and regulation of the practice of pharmacy; the licensure of pharmacists; the licensure, permitting, control, and regulation of all sites or persons, in or out of this State, that distribute, manufacture, possess, or sell drugs or devices within this State, as may be used in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of injury, illness, and disease of a patient or other individual;”

WHEREAS, South Carolina pharmacists, interns, and pharmacy technicians (“pharmacy personnel”) may generally only engage in the practice of pharmacy from a site permitted by the Board. As such, the processing of prescriptions and medication orders, if performed outside of the permitted pharmacy, must occur at another permitted site (i.e., all information must be transmitted from permitted site to permitted site). *See* Board Policy No. 147;

WHEREAS, the Board finds that COVID-19 presents a threat to the public health unlike any presented in recent history;

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the virus will impact health care providers, including pharmacy personnel, in addition to the public at large;

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the potential loss of services from qualified pharmacy personnel as a result of their contracting the virus poses a significant threat to the public health in that it could result in hospitals and pharmacies with reduced, or even no, pharmacy personnel;

WHEREAS, the Board concludes that the threat of harm posed by COVID-19 as discussed above outweighs the risks associated with pharmacy personnel engaged in the processing of prescriptions and medication orders from a non-permitted site (“remote order entry”);

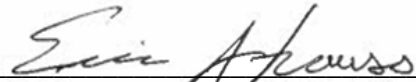
NOW, THEREFORE, for the reasons set forth above effective immediately, the Board hereby suspends enforcement of the prohibition on pharmacy personnel performing remote order entry from an unpermitted location, provided:

1. Pharmacy personnel engaged in remote order entry must be licensed in South Carolina or exempt from licensure by law;

2. The permitted pharmacy utilizing pharmacy personnel to engage in remote order entry from an unpermitted site must develop policies and procedures regarding remote order entry. The policies and procedures must delineate the responsibilities of all pharmacy personnel and must ensure that all pharmacy personnel will comply with federal and state laws and regulations governing the practice of pharmacy, as well as state and federal medical privacy requirements; and
3. Pharmacy personnel must have access to or share a common electronic file such that the pharmacy personnel performing remote medication order processing have sufficient patient information necessary for prospective drug use review and approval of medication orders;

This suspension of enforcement of the prohibition on remote order entry shall remain in effect for the duration of the declared public health state of emergency, unless otherwise modified, amended, or rescinded by subsequent order.

STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY



Eric J. Strauss, Pharm.D., R.Ph.
Board Chair

March 16, 2020